

**MINUTES
DAVIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MONDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2011
TOWN HALL MEETING**

The Davie County Board of Commissioners held a Town Hall Meeting at 6:00 p.m., Monday, October 17, 2011 in the Multi-Purpose Room of the Davie County Public Library, 371 North Main Street, Mocksville, NC.

Commissioners Present:

Mark S. Jones, Chairman
Kennon A. "Ken" White, Vice-Chairman
Carl Humphrey
Richard B. Poindexter
Robert Wisecarver

Commissioners Absent:

None

Others Present:

Beth M. Dirks, County Manager
James J. Stockert, Deputy County Manager
Sally W. Smith, County Attorney
Brenda B. Hunter, Clerk to the Board

Chairman Jones called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

Mr. Tim King offered the invocation.

Mr. David Speer, new Veterans Services Officer, led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Jones opened the floor for comments and stated that the purpose of tonight's meeting is to receive citizen comments on recreation and other issues of concern.

The following persons made comments:

Mr. Ronnie Cox, 137 Meadowview Road, Mocksville, addressed a concern presented at the September 6, 2011 regular meeting of the Davie County Board of Commissioners related to cutting the hours of the Veterans Service Officer from a full-time position to a part-time position (20 hours per week). He stated that the veterans, widows and children need a full-time Veterans Service Officer because a part-time person cannot do the job. The person needs to be available 24/7. Mr. Cox expressed appreciation to Vice-Chairman White for contacting him after the September 6th meeting to discuss his concern. He discussed the amount of money coming to Davie County veterans and their dependents from the Veterans Administration (\$5.8 million in 2009). Mr. Cox asked that the commissioners support the request to restore the Veterans Service Officer position to a full-time position.

Ms. Teresa Cookson, 236 Cookson Lane, Mocksville, stated that she serves as a Director for Davie Little League and has two sons who are involved with Davie Little League. Ms. Cookson expressed support of the efforts to construct a recreational park. She discussed the positive aspects of having a park and the benefits to children who play sports and participate in physical

activity. Ms. Cookson stated that Davie Little League has grown and there is a need to have a place where kids can play sports. She stated that this is a great opportunity for growth and will ensure that kids have a place to play sports into their high school years. Ms. Cookson stated that it is her belief that the community is tired of relying on surrounding communities to provide recreational facilities for their families. She urged the commissioners to do what is right for the community and expand recreational facilities.

Mr. Eric Phillips, 145 Petes Lane, Mocksville, discussed the health, economic, and environmental benefits of bicycling. He stated that cyclists are always looking for a safe place to ride their bicycles. Mr. Phillips urged the commissioners to consider investing in something that would yield a higher return on the investment, by making Mocksville a more bicycle-friendly place.

Ms. Kim Mason, 127 Pinewood Lane, Advance, stated that she was speaking on behalf of Mr. Dwayne Cookson. Ms. Mason stated that she is involved with Davie Little League as a Director and as a parent. She read comments from Mr. Cookson. There are currently 925+ children who participate in Davie Little League. Davie Little League has outgrown the current facilities and there is a desperate need for more practice fields and playing fields. Since Davie Little League is a non-profit organization, most of the money received goes toward maintenance and upkeep. A new recreational facility is what is needed for the children of Davie County. It would be something positive for the county and would bring additional revenue for businesses. The property next to the current complex would be a great location. Think about the kids first and help get this project started as the League will only continue to grow.

Mr. Harry Stroud, 221 Magnolia Avenue, Mocksville, stated that he grew up playing sports in Davie County and now participates in the Senior Games. Davie County holds 13 State records in Senior Games.

Mr. Tim King, 233 Evans Road, Mocksville, Vice President of the Davie Football Association, stated that currently the little league football games are being played at the two of the middle schools. He stated that parking is an issue and a potential safety hazard. Mr. King stated that there are approximately 600-700 children who participate in this program (football players and cheerleaders). He expressed the need for more fields.

Mr. Dave Lucas, 248 Wilkesboro Street, Mocksville, stated that he is a veteran and also serves as Director of Davie Little League. He expressed his support for a full-time Veterans Service Officer and additional recreation facilities.

Mr. Mike Garner, Director, Mocksville/Davie Parks and Recreation, stated that there is a need for additional recreation facilities. A Recreation Master Plan was completed in 1999 and identified the need for a county park. He discussed the recreation facilities and programs that are currently available. Mr. Garner expressed the need to work together to find a way to provide programs and facilities. He asked that anyone with ideas or suggestions to please contact him.

Mr. Eddie Weatherman, 182 Cottontail Lane, Advance, stated that this past year Advance VFW Post #8719 provided military rites at the funerals of 120 deceased veterans. He asked that consideration be given for the request to provide recreation facilities for the children, and the request to restore the Veterans Service Officer position to full-time.

Ms. Janine Wooten, 160 Powell Road, Mocksville, stated that she is a county employee. She expressed concern about priorities related to the county budget. Ms. Wooten stated that county employees haven't had a cost of living raise in years and were recently told that the county can no longer afford to pay higher insurance premiums. Employees will now have to pay higher deductibles and co-pays when seeking medical treatment. She asked the commissioners to reconsider their priorities.

Ms. Sandra Ferrell, 175 Center Street, Cooleemee and Ms. Jessica Lagle, 124 Pine Ridge Road, Mocksville, Recreation Directors, Town of Cooleemee, discussed the improvements that have been made to the recreation facilities in the Town of Cooleemee. They encourage all county citizens to come and use these facilities.

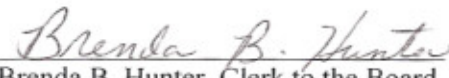
Mr. Mike Tester, 212 Overlook Drive, Advance, stated that he has been involved in Davie Little League (baseball and football) and is currently an umpire. He discussed the financial boost that adequate recreation facilities provide to the local economy. Mr. Tester expressed his support for additional recreation facilities.

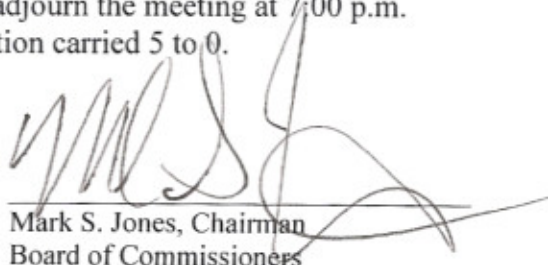
Mr. Tim Smith stated that he is a Vietnam veteran. He stated that he received assistance from the Veterans Service Officer when he was trying to apply for benefits. Mr. Smith expressed support for the Veterans Service Officer.

Mr. Tag Bowers expressed his support for recreation. He discussed his family's military service and stated that former Veterans Service Officers had always been very helpful. Mr. Bowers stated that he could not believe that Davie County could not afford a full-time Veterans Service Officer.

The commissioners expressed appreciation to the citizens for their attendance and comments and made closing remarks. The commissioners are evaluating the Veterans Service Officer position and are committed to taking care of the veterans. The commissioners are evaluating options to expand and create additional recreational opportunities.

Adjournment: Commissioner White made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Commissioner Poindexter seconded the motion. The motion carried 5 to 0.


Brenda B. Hunter, Clerk to the Board
Board of Commissioners


Mark S. Jones, Chairman
Board of Commissioners